

the state's economy, but no recession.

And even these figures don't tell the whole story.

clarity and expand their taxation and spending views between now and November 8. Voters should insist that they do.

In the Enterprise 10-5-66

Principle or Pragmatism?

ON THE BASIS of what he has said for the record, the decision of Rep. Charles Weltner of Atlanta, to withdraw as a candidate for re-election rather than support Lester Maddox is both noble and naive.

Weltner, a 38-year-old, two-term liberal Democrat, said his oath to the party required that he support the Democratic nominees, and "I cannot compromise with hate. I cannot vote for Lester Maddox."

Maddox is the pistol-packing, ax-handle

swinging segregationist who is the party's gubernatorial nominee.

What makes Weltner's decision noble is his obvious dedication to principle. What makes it naive is his apparent belief that it will change anything—or for that matter that his oath was binding.

As everywhere else in the country, the Democratic Party in Georgia has wrapped its arms around everyone from Eugene Talmadge to Martin Luther King. The oath is more of a pledge of allegiance to party principles than to any individual candidate, just as the Oath of Allegiance to the flag doesn't compel us to like all Americans or everything about the United States.

If there is validity to Weltner's decision, it is that there is method in his madness, and he is not telling all. Being a politician, Weltner has reason to hope that the state Democratic Party, already split, may turn to him if Maddox is defeated next month. He might hope to be the party's choice to succeed Republican nominee Howard Callaway in the governor's chair. And he might be right.



Rep. Charles L. Weltner

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